

Serial No. 10/705,575
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A vent control knob for controlling a position of a vane for an air vent that directs airflow into a vehicle's passenger compartment comprising:

a vane having a front edge and an opposed rear edge, wherein said rear edge includes [[a)] one notched portion;

a control knob fixedly engaged onto said vane, wherein said control knob includes an outer surface and an inner surface that defines a recess for receiving said vane, such that a first portion of said inner surface of said knob is adjacent said rear edge of said vane, and a second portion of said inner surface of said knob is adjacent said front edge of said vane, and a side portion of said knob is open for receiving said vane within the recess; and

a compressively resilient pad disposed in the one notched portion of said rear edge of said vane, wherein said pad extends outwardly beyond said rear edge of said vane to contact said first portion of said inner surface of said knob to operatively urge said front edge of said vane into contact with said second portion of said inner surface of said knob, so that said control knob and said vane move together during operation of said control knob.

8. (Previously Presented) The control knob of claim 7 wherein the compressively resilient pad is made from silicone.

9. (Previously Presented) The control knob of claim 8 wherein said recess for receiving said vane is dimensioned to be slightly larger than a dimension of said vane.

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10. (Currently Amended) A vent control knob for controlling a position of a vane for an air vent that directs airflow into a vehicle's passenger compartment comprising:

a vane having a front edge and an opposed rear edge, wherein said rear edge includes [[a)] one notched portion;

a control knob fixedly engaged onto said vane, wherein said control knob includes an outer surface and an inner surface that defines a recess for receiving said vane that is dimensioned to be slightly larger than a dimension of said vane, such that a first portion of said inner surface of said knob is adjacent said rear edge of said vane, and a second portion of said inner surface of said knob is adjacent said front edge of said vane, and a side portion of said knob is open for receiving said vane within the recess; and

a compressively resilient silicone pad disposed in the one notched portion of said rear edge of said vane, wherein said pad extends outwardly beyond said rear edge of said vane to contact said first portion of said inner surface of said knob to operatively force said front edge of said vane into contact with said second portion of said inner surface of said knob, so that said control knob and said vane move together during operation of said control knob.